

## NFPA 58 FAQs

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**1. *Why is the storage of LPG cylinders not permitted in flammable liquid storage lockers? It is my understanding that flammable liquid storage lockers have been tested and rated for storage of flammable liquids.***

Storage of LP-Gas is covered in NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, while storage of flammable liquids is covered in NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code. What is important is that propane is not a flammable liquid. It is a flammable, liquefied gas. This difference is very important and the reason that the two must not be stored improperly. A flammable liquids storage cabinet is designed to protect flammable liquid containers from fire for 10 minutes to allow for safe evacuation. Propane storage is severely restricted in buildings because of its rapid evolution of gas from leakage from containers, which is orders of magnitude greater than the evolution of flammable vapors from flammable liquids.

**2. *How far can a 1000 gallon propane tank be from a property line? If three 1000 gallon propane tanks are installed at one location, what is the distance to a property line and minimum distance between the tanks?***

Refer to Table 6.3.1, where it can be seen that an aboveground propane tank between 501 and 2,000 gallons requires a 25 ft spacing, and Note f (section 6.3.3) is referred to. 6.3.3 allows this distance for one propane tank of 1200 gal. or less to be reduced to 10 ft where no other propane tanks larger than of more than 125 gallons within 25 ft.

Paragraph 6.3.1 states that this distance is measured to the "line of adjoining property that can be built upon", therefore if the adjacent property can be built upon, the tank must be a minimum of 10 ft from the property line.

**3. *If three 1000 gallon propane tanks are installed at one location, what is the distance to a property line and minimum distance between the tanks?***

Refer to table 6.3.1. Note that the heading of the first column says "Water Capacity per Container" and not aggregate capacity. Therefore the tank closest to the property line must be at least 25 ft from it. Note that the distance reduction in table 6.3.1 note (f) does not apply as there is a propane tank larger than 125 gallons within 25 ft.

**4. *What restrictions apply to the storage of propane cylinders in buildings?***

The storage of propane in buildings is limited:

Buildings frequented by the public are limited to cylinders with a propane capacity of 1 pound. The total quantity stored is limited to 200 pounds of propane.

Buildings not frequented by the public are limited to a maximum quantity of 300 pounds of propane. The cylinder size is not restricted.

Storage in "Special Buildings", meeting the requirements of Chapter 7 of NFPA 58 is limited to 10,000 pounds of propane.

**5. *What level of review is required for a new bulk propane storage facility with a capacity of more than 4,000 gallons of propane?***

A bulk storage facility with a capacity of more than 4,000 gallons of propane in heavily populated or congested areas can be required to have a fire safety analysis performed by 6.4.1. The fire safety analysis is described in 6.25.3. Additional information on conducting the fire safety analysis can be found in Supplement 1, Liquefied Petroleum Gases Handbook, available from NFPA.